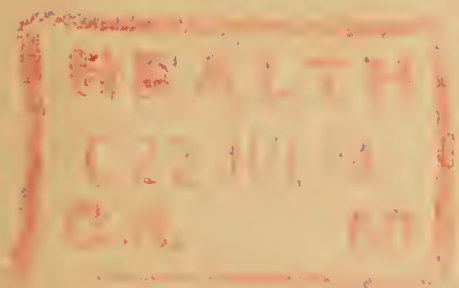


Library



ROTHWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1953



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30043736>

Urban District of Rothwell

Members of the Public Health Committee : 1953 - 54

Councillor T. Nichols (*Chairman*).

Councillors A. Boyce, H. Cross, J.P., R. L. Dainty,
K. H. Hickinbotham, F. T. Lee and F. J. W. West, C.C.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban Districts of Burton Latimer, Corby, Desborough, the Rural District of Kettering and Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire County Council.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

A. SMITH, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., CERT.S.I.B.

Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
KETTERING,

May, 1954.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for 1953.

The death-rate, infantile mortality rate and the incidence of infectious disease was satisfactory. There was one infant death occurring at five days, due to prematurity.

I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and also to my colleagues for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Area (acres)	3,638	3,638	3,638	3,638	3,638
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	4,677	4,671	4,584	4,649	4,692
Number of Live Births	75	50	67	58	67
Legitimate	73	48	66	57	65
Illegitimate	2	2	1	1	2
Birthrate per 1,000 population	16.03	10.70	14.61	12.48	16.41
Number of Still Births	1	2	—	4	1
Legitimate	1	2	—	4	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	13.15	38.46	—	64.52	14.71
Rate per 1,000 population	0.21	0.42	—	0.86	0.21
Number of Deaths	54	61	76	47	53
Deathrate per 1,000 population	11.54	13.05	16.58	10.11	11.30
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	40.00	20.00	—	17.24	14.93
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	—	—	17.24	14.93
*Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2	1	—
*Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	2	1	—
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms ...	7	8	12	10	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—

*Registrar-General's figures.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1953

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para- typhoid	Fever Typhoid	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Tuber- culosis	Influenza	Small-Pox	Acute Polio- myelitis and Polio- encephalitis	Pneumonia	Diarr- hoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales ...	15.5	0.35	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.20	0.16	0.00	0.01	0.55	1.1	26.8
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	17.0	0.43	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.24	0.15	0.00	0.01	0.59	1.3	30.8
160 Smaller Towns estd. resident popu- lations, 25,000 — 50,000	15.7	0.34	11.3	—	—	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.17	0.00	0.01	0.52	0.9	24.3
London	17.5	0.38	12.5	—	—	0.00	—	0.24	0.15	—	0.01	0.64	1.1	24.8
Rothwell														
Urban District ...	17.39	0.21	9.49	—	—	—	—	—	0.64	—	—	0.21	—	14.93
The Maternal Mortality rates for :														
Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium			Abortion with toxæmia			Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium			Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth			Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia		
England and Wales per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births			0.10			0.01			0.24			0.04		
Rothwell Urban District ...			—			—			—			—		
			0.18			0.06			0.13			0.06		
			Other compli- cations of Preg- nancy, child- birth and the puerperium											

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	3,638
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	4,692
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to Rate Book	1,588
Rateable Value	£21,731
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£82

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :—
Boot and Shoe manufacture, ironstone mining and manufacture of agricultural implements.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	65	34	31
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS ...	67	35	32
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... 16.41

STILL BIRTHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	1	1	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS ...	1	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births ... 14.71

DEATHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
	53	29	24

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (crude) 11.30

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (corrected) 9.49

Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ... —

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 14.93

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 15.38

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births —

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... —

Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... —

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms ... 12

Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ... —

Deaths.—Comparability factor for 1953 was 0.84. The crude death-rate per 1,000 population for 1953 was 11.30 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.84, supplied by the Registrar General, gives a corrected death-rate of 9.49. This rate of 9.49 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of Rothwell Urban District was distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

LIVE BIRTH RATES 1953

A comparability factor has been issued for 1953 by the Registrar General which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Rothwell and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	16.41
Rothwell					
corrected by comparability factor 1.06					17.39
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES 1953

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding, and maternity and child welfare.

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	14.93
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	26.8

The causes of deaths in children under one year of age with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause</i>
5 days	M.	Prematurity.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	29	24	53
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory			...	...	...	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other			...	...	...	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease			...	...	...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough			...	...	...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections			...	...	...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases						—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	...				2	—	2
11. Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	...					—	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	...	...				—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	...	...				—	—	—
14. Other Malignant & lymphatic neoplasms						7	2	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...			—	—	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system						1	5	6
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...				2	9	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...					—	1	1

Registered causes of death— <i>Continued.</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	3	3	6
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	1	3
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	—	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	—	2
25.	Other disease of the respiratory system	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer and stomach duodenum	...	...	...	1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	4	1	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton and by the Laboratory of the Kettering General Hospital.

The following specimens were examined :—

Blood (Widal)	...	...	...	...	1
Faeces	...	...	...	...	8

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—The County Council is responsible for Ambulance Services. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—The County Council is responsible for the Home Nursing Service.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session each month.

Treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases is carried out by the Regional Hospital Board.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised in 1953 is as follows :—

Under 5 years of age	...	...	...	53
5 to 14 years of age	...	...	...	5
TOTAL				58
Boosters	...	...	...	57

The number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1953 is as follows :—

Age at 31.12.53	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in Year	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Number immunised	5	40	47	39	41

Age at 31.12.53	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total
i.e. Born in Year	1944 - 48	1939 - 43	under 15
Number immunised	247	293	712

WHOOPIING COUGH VACCINATION

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	Total
Whooping Cough only ...	1	2	—	3
*Combined Diphtheria/ Pertussis	20	30	1	51

*The combined Diphtheria/Pertussis figures are included in the figures for Diphtheria Immunisation.

VACCINATION

The following table gives the number of vaccinations undertaken during the year :—

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Primary	12	—	2	5	19
Re-vaccination ...	—	—	—	1	1

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.—No formal action was taken during the year.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area:

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Water Supply.—The supply and distribution of water is now entirely managed by the Mid-Northants Water Board.

An adequate supply of water has been maintained by supplementing the local supply with water from Northampton via the Harrington main, and no reports of water shortage were received during the year.

Water Analysis.—Two samples of town's water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination, with the report that both were "Very Satisfactory".

Kettering Road Area Supply.—Samples of water taken from the seven shallow wells on the properties around the Rothwell Lodge and Grange Farms, Kettering Road, were submitted for bacteriological examination, and all reports were unsatisfactory. All efforts made to persuade the Mid-Northants Water Board to provide a piped supply of water to the above area have so far been unsuccessful, but further efforts are being made to obtain a satisfactory supply of water.

Rainfall.—The figure during 1953 was 19.24 inches, which is the lowest recorded figure for 10 years, and incidently the same as in 1943.

1953	19.24 ins.	1949	23.72 ins.	1945	20.83 ins.
1952	23.44 ins.	1948	28.77 ins.	1944	21.94 ins.
1951	29.97 ins.	1947	21.21 ins.	1943	19.24 ins.
1950	25.58 ins.	1946	25.94 ins.		

Water Services.—New services were connected to 18 Council Houses, 8 Housing Society Houses and 7 private houses.

Public Swimming Bath.—The indifferent weather during the past summer caused a fluctuation in the number of bathers, which was slightly less than the previous year.

The bath water is chlorinated daily according to its use and the need for treatment, so as to maintain an average residual chlorine content of 1 part per million, which assures the purity of the water and causes no discomfort to the bathers.

Mr. R. Cross again carried out his duties of Bath Attendant with efficiency and enthusiasm, and was assisted by Mr. J. Norman, who attended the bath daily during the school holidays.

Between June and September, the following bathers paid for admission to the bath :—

Boys	1020	Men	171	
Girls	912	Women	82	Total 2185
(a decrease of 131 bathers compared with 1952)				

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Extension of Sewers.—The 9 inch sewer in Meadow Road was extended through the new Harrington Road Housing Site with branches connected to Elizabeth Road and Edinburgh Close.

Sewage Disposal Works.—The National Gas Oil Engine which drives the sludge lifting pump is worn out and past repair, and caused a considerable amount of trouble during the year. The installation of electrical power and motors to drive the pumps is anxiously awaited.

Public Cleansing.—A weekly collection of house and trade refuse has been maintained excepting for holiday periods.

The Karrier Bantam refuse vehicle continues to give good service.

Controlled Tipping.—All household refuse is deposited in the Controlled Tip at Thorpe Underwood, and facilities are available for tradesmen to deposit their trade waste in the tip at moderate charges.

Salvage Collections.—The fluctuation in price and demand for waste paper during the year made the collection and disposal of this material rather uncertain, but the Thames Board Mills, even in extreme difficulties, kept to their contract and cleared all waste paper collected, which was 8 tons more than the previous year.

A total of 56 tons 9 cwt. of waste paper was despatched to the mills during the year, bringing in a revenue of £377 as against £483 for 48 tons 11 cwt. in 1952.

Annual Tonnage of Waste Paper—

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
1947	...	...	22	18	0
1948	...	...	52	9	1
1949	...	...	51	15	1
1950	...	...	54	0	1
1951	...	...	52	18	0
1952	...	...	48	11	0
1953	...	...	56	9	0

SECTION D. Public Health and Housing Acts.

Housing.—18 new houses were completed by the Council during the year, and a start was made on a further 26.

4 new houses were completed by the Northamptonshire and District Housing Society Limited.

No houses were demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of Notices Served—

Informal	Nuisance	6
	Housing	—
Statutory		—

Rodent Control.—28 infestations of rats were successfully dealt with by your Rodent Operator during the year, when 147 bodies were recovered, mostly at the refuse disposal tip and sewage works.

The use of the new rodenticide “Warfarin” has proved most successful, and has been the means of completely exterminating whole colonies of rats, followed by long clear periods before reinfestation.

Sewer treatment was carried out by test baiting 12 manholes on different parts of the system, but no evidence of infestations were found.

Factories Act, 1937.—There are thirty-five factories on the Register—14 inspections were made and 5 defects found ; all were remedied.

The number of outworkers in August 1953 was 6.

Milk Samples.—13 samples of milk were taken from milk vendors in the area and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service to be examined for keeping quality and tested by the Methylene Blue reduction test, with the following results :—

Unsatisfactory 1

The following food stuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption, consequently being surrendered and destroyed : —

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING 1953

Complaints received	...	...	...	409
Nuisance inspections	...	...	...	136
Housing inspections	...	...	...	273
Factory inspections	...	...	...	14
Food Shops inspections	...	...	...	20
Food Warehouse inspections	...	...	...	6
Bakehouse inspections	...	...	...	3
School Canteen inspections	...	...	...	2
Rodent infestations	...	...	...	28
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	116
Housing Defects remedied	...	...	...	322

There were 18 notifications during the year. Nine cases were due to Measles and one was admitted to Hospital. There were seven cases of Scarlet Fever of which four were removed to Hospital. All these cases recovered.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. The regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1953.

The number of cases in the Register at the end of 1953 was as follows :—

During the year two cases of Respiratory and one case of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis left the area for other districts.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	—	1	1	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	7
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	—	1	1	2	6	—	—	3	1	2	2	18

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1953

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Measles ...	—	2	—	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	7	4	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	4	—	5	2	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	18	5	—	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1953

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	1	—	—	1
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	1	—	1	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	1
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	2	—	—	1
TOTALS	4	—	1	3

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1953

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	* 2	—	—	—

*These patients died in Hospital in Kettering Borough and the deaths have been notified as occurring in Kettering Borough.

